

## **Sha Sha Higby combines dance, performance art and sculptural costuming May 2 at UCSD**

**April 27, 1993**

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SRA BHA HIGBY COMBINES DANCE PERFORMANCE ART AND SCULPTURAL COSTUMING MAY 2 AT UCSD

Sha Sha Higby's sculptural art, which she painstakingly creates out of thousands of intricate pieces of objects and fabrics, becomes her costume. The costume becomes the moveable, wearable "skin" that accompanies Higby's stylized, Butoh-like dance movements, in what she calls a "costume sculpture performance."

Higby's UCSD performance will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in the Mandeville Recital Hall at the University of California, San Diego. Tickets for the event are \$12/10 general admission, \$8/10 for seniors, and \$10/8 for students. They may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office and from TicketMaster outlets.

Higby, whose studio is in Bolinas, California, gathers exotic materials from around the world to create her costumes. When completed, they can weigh up to 35 pounds, take up to two years to complete, and contain such whimsical elements as brass bells, silken cords, rare silks, grasses, dried flowers, birds' eggs and tiny carved objects.

She learned her craft by combining a number of different cultural genres picked up over several years in the Orient. She studied Japanese Butoh (she was the first Caucasian woman to be accepted by Eiko, a famous Japanese dance master); Noh theatre, where she learned the craft of mask making; puppetry in New York City with Bill Baird; shadow puppet-making in Java, and fine arts at Skidmore College, New York.

She continues to study her craft, and receives many grants and awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Indonesia, where she lived for five years. When she returned to the United States in 1983, she began her performance work using costumes she created in Indonesia. She has toured in eight countries and conducts workshops in mask-making and movement.

Higby's performance event is brought to San Diego by UCSD's University Events Office. For information, call 534-4090.

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